

AMENDMENTS TO THE CLAIMS:

This listing of claims will replace all prior versions, and listings, of claims in the application:

1. (Currently amended) An information source monitor device for use in monitoring access of a specific client computer to an unspecified number of server computers in a network, the server computers having browsing data files having a hyperlink structure, the specific client computer browsing the data files, and the network interconnecting the server computers and the specific client computer, the information source monitor device on server computers interconnected by a network through a client computer, comprising:

extracting means for extracting a referring URL (Uniform Resource Locator) from a request header for a data file, the request header outputted to the network from the specific client computer;

reference information storing means for storing the thus extracted ~~[[a]]~~ referring URL (Uniform Resource Locator) ~~that referred to a data file accessed by the client computer as~~ reference information;

counting means for counting the reference information to obtain a total number of times references made for each referring URL; and

output means for outputting a result of the counting to the specific client computer.

~~wherein said reference information storing means stores at least a referring URL as reference information, when the client computer makes an access to a URL of a lower hierarchical order than the referring URL, that is hyperlinked to a page of the referring URL; and~~

~~said counting means is for counting a referred number of times of the referring URL stored in said reference information storing means.~~

2. (Original) The information source monitor device as set forth in claim 1, wherein said information source monitor device is incorporated into the client computer.

3. (Original) The information source monitor device as set forth in claim 2, wherein said information source monitor device is constructed as a part of a browser in the client computer.

4. (Original) The information source monitor device as set forth in claim 1, wherein said information source monitor device is positioned at a relay point between the server computers and the client computer.

5. (Original) The information source monitor device as set forth in claim 1, further comprising reference information extracting means for extracting information of a referring URL from a request header which is issued by the client computer when the client computer accesses a data file on the server computer.

6. (Original) The information source monitor device as set forth in claim 5, wherein said reference information extracting means extracts a data type of a data file from a response header which is issued by the server computer when the client computer accessed the data file on the server computer.

7. (Original) The information source monitor device as set forth in claim 6, further comprising sorting means for counting the reference information according to data types to find a total number of times reference was made to each referring URL.

8. (Original) The information source monitor device as set forth in claim 1, further comprising data converting means for converting data of the reference information into a displayable data format.

9. (Original) The information source monitor device as set forth in claim 1, wherein said reference information storing means further storing a text belonging to a data file accessed by the client computer.

10. (Original) The information source monitor device as set forth in claim 1, further comprising:

information accumulating means for accumulating as a cache a predetermined amount of data files accessed by the client computer; and

information updating means for updating data files at referring URLs and data files linked to the data files at the referring URLs at a predetermined link level in the cache at predetermined time intervals according to a counting result of the reference information by accessing a corresponding server computer.

11. (Original) The information source monitor device as set forth in claim 10, further comprising searching means for searching the data files in the cache.

12. (Currently amended) An information source monitor method for use in monitoring access of a specific client computer to an unspecified number of server computers in a network, the server computers having browsing data files having a hyperlink structure, the specific client computer browsing the data files, and the network interconnecting the server computers and the specific client computer, the method on server computers interconnected by a network through a client computer, comprising the steps of:

extracting a referring URL (Uniform Resource Locator) from a request header for a data file, the request header outputted to the network from the specific client computer;

storing ~~[[a]]~~ the extracted referring URL ~~that referred to a data file accessed by the client computer~~ as reference information;

counting the reference information to find a total number of times reference was made to each referring URL;

outputting a result of the counting to the specific client computer.

~~storing at least a referring URL as reference information, when the client computer makes an access to a URL of a lower hierarchical order than the referring URL, that is hyperlinked to a page of the referring URL; and~~

~~counting a referred number of times of the referring URL.~~

13. (Currently amended) A computer-readable storage medium including a recorded program for executing an information source monitoring process for use in monitoring access of a specific client computer to an unspecified number of server computers in a network, the server computers having browsing data files having a hyperlink structure, the specific client computer

browsing the data files, and the network interconnecting the server computers and the specific client computer, the program on server computers interconnected by a network through a client computer, comprising:

extracting a referring URL (Uniform Resource Locator) from a request header for a data file, the request header outputted to the network from the specific client computer;

~~a program for enabling a computer to execute~~ storing the extracted [[of a]] referring URL that referred to a data file accessed by the client computer as reference information, and

counting [[of]] the reference information to find a total number of times reference was made to each referring URL, and

outputting a result of the counting to the specific client computer.

~~for enabling reference information storing means to store at least a referring URL as reference information, when the client computer makes an access to a URL of a lower hierarchical order than the referring URL, that is hyperlinked to a page of the referring URL, and for causing counting means to count a referred number of times of the referring URL stored in said reference information storing means.~~

14. (Withdrawn) A network information display method for selectively displaying proposed access points when browsing file objects having a hyperlink structure on server computers interconnected by a network through a client computer, comprising the steps of:

- (a) allotting an index of importance to a referring address that referred to a file object accessed by the client computer according to a referred frequency of the file object;
- (b) detecting whether file objects which were accessed by the client computer in the past have been updated on the server computers; and

(c) when updates of the file objects are detected, displaying the referring addresses of the file objects in order of the index of importance.

15. (Withdrawn) The network information display method as set forth in claim 14, wherein said step (b) includes the step of detecting appearance of a new hyperlink, and when the appearance of the new hyperlink is detected, a display element to which the new hyperlink is attached is displayed together with the referring address in such a state that a hyperlink is attached to a corresponding file object.

16. (Withdrawn) The network information display method as set forth in claim 15, wherein when a changed display element consists only of an image file, a hyperlink attached to the image file is regarded as a new hyperlink only if the address of the hyperlink attached to the image file is judged no longer than a predetermined length.

17. (Withdrawn) The network information display method as set forth in claim 14, wherein said step (b) includes the step of detecting changes in display elements to which the same hyperlink is attached, and when a changed display element is detected, the changed display element is displayed together with the referring address in such a state that a hyperlink is attached to a corresponding file object.

18. (Withdrawn) The network information display method as set forth in claim 14,

wherein, in said step (b), an upper limit is set on the number of the referring addresses of updated file objects to be displayed, and

when the number of the referring addresses of updated file objects to be displayed exceeds the upper limit, a message indicating that the number of detected updated file objects exceeds the upper limit is displayed in such a state that a hyperlink is attached to a detail display of updated file objects that are not displayed.

19. (Withdrawn) The network information display method as set forth in claim 14, wherein only when a data size of a file object at the referring address differs from a data size of the file object obtained by a previous access by an amount of not less than a predetermined value, said step (b) detects the file object as an updated file object.

20. (Withdrawn) The network information display method as set forth in claim 14, wherein when a last modified time of a file object at the referring address differs from a last modified time of the file object obtained by a previous access, said step (b) detects the file object as an updated file object.

21. (Withdrawn) The network information display method as set forth in claim 14, wherein the allotment of the index of importance is determined according to a browsing history of a user in a past certain period.

22. (Withdrawn) The network information display method as set forth in claim 14, wherein the allotment of the index of importance is determined according to data types.

23. (Withdrawn) A storage medium storing as a computer-readable program a network information display method for selectively displaying proposed access points when browsing file objects having a hyperlink structure on server computers interconnected by a network through a client computer, said method comprising the steps of:

(a) allotting an index of importance to a referring address that referred to a file object accessed by the client computer, according to a referred frequency of the file object;

(b) detecting whether file objects which were accessed by the client computer in a past have been updated on the server computers; and

(c) when updates of the file objects are detected, displaying the referring addresses of the file objects in order of the index of importance.

24. (Withdrawn) A computer for executing the program as read from the storage medium of claim 23.

25. (Previously presented) The information source monitor device of claim 1, wherein said page is an HTML page.

26. (Previously presented) The device of claim 1, wherein the counting means is for counting the reference information to obtain a total number of times references made for each referring URL so that a count value is increased each time a given page is used to link to another or destination linked page.

27. (Previously presented) The method of claim 12, wherein the counting is for counting the reference information to obtain a total number of times reference is made for each referring URL so that a count value is increased each time a given page is used to link to another or destination linked page.

28. (Previously presented) The method of claim 13, wherein the counting is for counting the reference information to obtain a total number of times reference is made for each referring URL so that a count value is increased each time a given page is used to link to another or destination linked page.

29. (New) The information source monitor device of claim 1,
wherein said reference information storing means stores at least a referring URL as reference information, when the client computer makes an access to a URL of a lower hierarchical order than the referring URL, that is hyperlinked to a page of the referring URL; and
wherein said counting means is for counting a referred number of times of the referring URL stored in said reference information storing means.

30. (New) The method of claim 12, further comprising:
storing at least a referring URL as reference information, when the client computer makes an access to a URL of a lower hierarchical order than the referring URL, that is hyperlinked to a page of the referring URL; and
counting a referred number of times of the referring URL.

31. (New) The medium of claim 13, further comprising means for causing reference information storing means to store at least a referring URL as reference information, when the client computer makes an access to a URL of a lower hierarchical order than the referring URL, that is hyperlinked to a page of the referring URL, and for causing counting means to count a referred number of times of the referring URL stored in said reference information storing means.